

Congratulations on deciding to share your life with an . . . *English Cocker Spaniel*

We encourage you to stay in touch with the breeder from whom you purchased your puppy for advice on care. Please visit the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America's website at www.ECSCA.info for more information about the breed.



History

Spaniels are believed to have originated in Spain and were mentioned in ancient British laws as early as 300AD. Until the early 20th century, "spaniel" was a generic term for dogs that could be used to hunt and flush a variety of game birds. The smaller dogs were called "cockers" and were used to hunt woodcock. Larger dogs from the same litter were called "springers" as they flushed or sprang birds from cover. Eventually, as people bred for either cockers or springers, two separate breeds were developed.



In the United States, the Cocker Spaniel breed developed somewhat differently in appearance from their British cousins so that eventually two separate breeds were established in 1946: the Cocker Spaniel (once termed "American-type") and the English Cocker Spaniel. In the United States, the Cocker developed by American breeders became one of America's most popular breeds and was known as just the Cocker. In the rest of the world, it's the English Cocker that is simply described as the "Cocker Spaniel" —a somewhat confusing case of canine nomenclature.

Description

"The English Cocker is merry and affectionate, of equable disposition, neither sluggish nor hyperactive,



Photo by Carol Beuchat

a willing worker and a faithful and engaging companion," reads the temperament section of the breed standard. Their tails rarely stop wagging. Above all, they are happiest when they are with the people they love—which is nearly everyone. Once you have an English Cocker, you will never be alone again. They want to be with their people and do not do well when isolated or made into "outside only" dogs.

The English Cocker Spaniel comes in an attractive variety of coat colors, both solids and parti-colors, with the roaning pattern prevalent. Most have a moderate coat and feathering

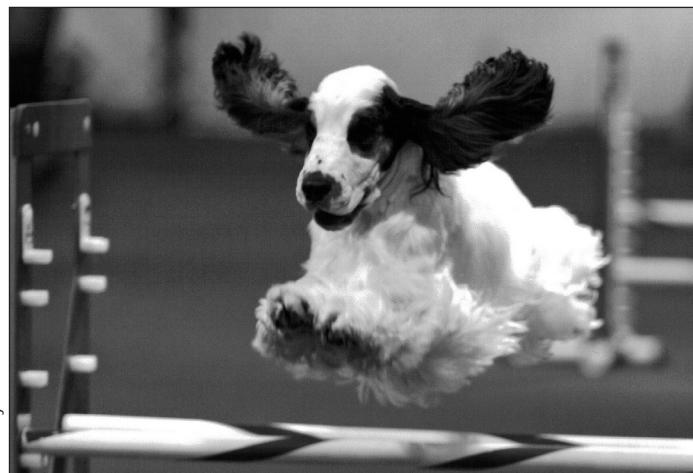


Photo by Frank Janssen



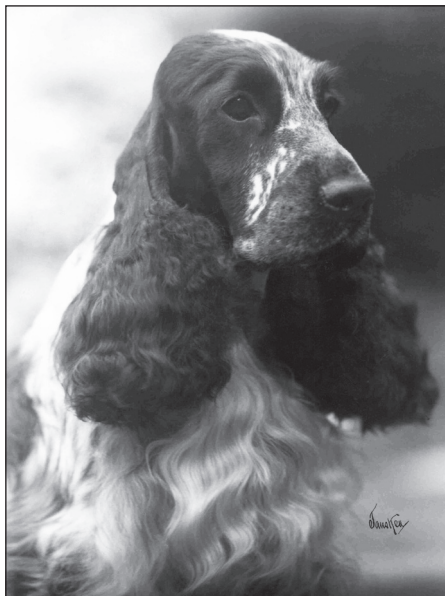
Photo by Shannon Wooten

which requires regular grooming, though field or working lines carry less coat. The males are typically 16 to 17 inches tall and weigh 28 to 34 pounds. Females are 15 to 16 inches, weighing 26 to 32 pounds. This athletic breed is compact, short-coupled and considered to be “a large dog in a small package.”

Fun with your English Cocker

All Cockers were bred to work in the field, working close to their master. Today’s English Cockers have retained this instinct and often do well in the field. Some, referred to as field-bred or working English Cockers, have been selectively bred to retain their hunting traits. Physically, field bred cockers may look different than the ones bred for conformation competition.

Nearly all English Cockers enjoy activities with their owners, whether it’s a walk in the park or on the beach, fetching tennis balls, running agility courses or hunting—after which they are quite content to relax next to their people. The breed is known for its versatility in many endeavours ranging from being a show dog, to competing in AKC performance and companion events, such as



obedience, rally, agility, hunting tests and field trials. Their marvelous sense of smell makes them great tracking dogs. They enjoy having a job to do for their people, but what they really like best is being your companion.

Basic Care of your English Cocker Spaniel

Regular grooming is a must. This includes brushing or combing through the coat and stripping the back and head. Depending on your dog’s life style, grooming can be complex (for the show ring) or simpler if a companion. As with all long-eared dogs, it is most important to keep ears clean and trimmed neatly inside and out. Toenails need to be cut regularly. The breeder should advise you about proper grooming. There are videos, charts and books on English Cocker Spaniel grooming available at

www.ECSCA.info

Overfeeding can be a problem. The way to an English Cocker’s heart is through its stomach! They tend to be chowhounds, and when they turn on the full force of their soulful expression, it can be easy to believe they haven’t eaten in days—even if they just finished their dinner. Learn to resist and you will be rewarded with a much healthier dog!

Unless you plan to show your English Cocker in AKC conformation dog show competition, you may have received an application for AKC Limited Registration with your new puppy. Most responsible breeders also require companion puppies to be spayed or neutered. Not only does this protect the breed from indiscriminate breeding, but it can also protect your dog from future health problems. You should discuss the best time to spay or neuter your dog with your veterinarian.

Should you want to get involved with your dog at AKC events, spayed and neutered English Cocker Spaniels are eligible to compete in all AKC performance events. English Cockers usually enjoy these various activities because they are doing it *with you!*



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